



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

Engineer Research and  
Development Center

## Source Acquisition Team (SAT)

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### Description and Background

2004 brought many changes to the Operations Division at TEC, and one of these changes was the addition of a new team within the Information Services Branch. This new team is aptly named the Source Acquisition Team (SAT). The mission of the SAT is twofold. First, to produce base imagery, utilizing both commercial and NTM imagery, to support the requirements of the Urban Tactical Planner (UTP) program. The SAT's second mission will be to maintain and disseminate Common Map Background (CMB) information to fielded U.S. Army Topographic Systems, the Marine Corps, and other customers, thereby providing a commonality of data between the services.

### Key Capabilities

The SAT has produced numerous image base products, filling a niche that was needed to support the war-fighter and the Army. There are over 1400 cities on the 2004 Urban Tactical Planner requirements list. The goal is that all of these cities will have high-resolution image bases and elevation information, producing both an orthophoto product, and a Terra-Explorer fly-through depicting the city boundary and outlying terrain. In addition, the top 100 cities on the UTP requirements list will use higher resolution imagery; NTM imagery that has been declassified to FOUO by using an Image Derived Product (IDP) process, or commercial imagery such as Quickbird or Ikonos. These image bases will be given to the UTP team to produce full or partial UTP's.

It was quickly determined that the higher resolution image bases that use NTM, Ikonos or Quickbird as their source take much longer to produce than products which are readily available from NGA. The users in the field need a product they can use now, in addition to the UTP high-resolution image bases. Responding to this need, the SAT has started at the top of the UTP priority list to download all corresponding NGA Controlled Image Base (CIB), Digital Terrain Elevation Data (DTED), and Shuttle Radar Topographic Mission (SRTM).

### Product Development

Information Services Branch, Operations Division, Topographic Engineering Center, Engineer Research and Development Center, US Army Corps of Engineers.

### Current Status

SAT production has undergone various enhancements and is continuing to evolve. It was determined that the best way to showcase the numerous base images and elevation data, which have been downloaded, was to produce fly-throughs utilizing the CIB and elevation data. This decision became the "100 cities project". Using Terra-explorer, analysts are adding new cities to the "world" view on a daily basis, as new image bases are produced. Users will be able to "fly" around the world, zooming in on areas with high-resolution data insets. The CIB insets will be replaced with the higher resolution UTP bases as they are produced, providing an even more refined and useable product.

Following the development and implementation of the Common Map Background, the SAT will be responsible for the maintenance of the database, the dissemination of the data, as well as keeping abreast of new products to incorporate in the database. The envisioned database will include the best and latest NGA data. The SAT will provide data on a scheduled basis to army fielded systems, the joint services, and other requestors.

### Point of Contact

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